irrigation projects of each State?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) The newspaper report refers to the National Conference of Irrigation and Water Resources Ministers of States and Union Territories organised recently by this Ministry itself. In the Inaugural Address, the Prime Minister drew the attention of the Conference to the proliferation of projects by the States. The Conference stressed the need for prioritisation of on-going projects to obtain early benefits and recommended the setting up of review committees in each State under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister to draw up priorities in accordance with the broad guidelines indicated in the Conference.

Agricultural development of North Eastern States

1646. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have made a plan for agricultural development in the North Eastern States;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether the North-Eastern States have been associated for making the plans ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) The States of the North Eastern Region draw up their own plans for agricultural development keeping in view their special needs. Such plans have also been formulated and approved for implementation during the Seventh Five Year Plan.

(b) The thrust of agricultural development during the Seventh Five Year Plan is on measures for raising agricultural production and productivity aimed at attaining self-sufficiency in foodgrains, creation of assured irrigation and utilisation of the same, scientific land-use including control of shifting cultivation and promotion of subsidiary sources of income through livestock rearing, pisciculture, horticulture, plantation afforestation, sericulture, etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Bhagirathi River Project

1647. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU : will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of irrigation projects connected with river valley land under execution in the country :

(b) whether it is a fact that the project on Bhagirathi River at Tehri, Uttar Pradesh has not yet been completed and the cost of the project has gone up many times higher than the cost originally contemplated ; and

(c) if so, what measures Government propose to take for the speedy execution of the dam ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURSES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) 181 major and 433 medium irrigation projects have spilled over into the Seventh Plan. In addition, 17 major and 66 medium new projects have been taken up for implementation in the Seventh Plan.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) It is proposed to pose the project for bilateral assistance after clearance from environmental and forest angle.